

REMARKS

The present amendment is submitted prior to the issuance of a first Office Acton and simultaneously with the filing of the present application.

With this amendment applicants have amended the specification, cancelled claims 1 to 11 and added new claims 12 to 24, all in an effort to place the application in better condition for examination.

Favorable action on the present application is respectfully requested.

Any additional fees or charges required at this time in connection with the application may be charged to our Patent and Trademark Office Deposit Account No. 03-2412.

Respectfully submitted,
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IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Page 4, starting at line 11:

The method according to the invention achieves this object by [the defining features of claim 1; the object is further achieved by the defining features of claim 2. By] avoiding the discharge of heat energy in the boundary regions of the cavity of the laminator or, which is synonymous therewith, by maintaining and, as it were, concentrating the heat back through the mold onto the inserted card which is to be laminated or onto the laminate, it is ensured that said mold reaches the precise softening temperature required for the laminating process in the boundary regions at the same time as in the central region. This not only results in an elegant appearance of the entire finished product over its entire surface, but also in the certainty that the layers of the laminate which are to be laminated to one another are also satisfactorily connected to one another especially in the boundary region and that when an individual layer is inserted, the boundary region thereof obtains the same degree of lamination as the central region.

Page 6, line 1:

In the attached drawing, the sizing laminator is denoted by 12[; it] comprises an upper heating plate 2 and a lower heating plate 6 which, in conjunction with a frame 7, form a cavity which is used for holding the material to be laminated.

Page 7, line 1:

It can furthermore be seen that in order to apply the required pressure in the case of the exemplary embodiment illustrated in the drawing of a laminator 12, the lower heating plate 6 corresponds with the greatest possible accuracy to the internal dimensions of the frame 7 and therefore also to the final dimensions of the card which is to be produced, with the result that this heating plate can be inserted, from below in this case, into the cavity 7a which is formed by the hollow space of the frame 7.

Page 8, starting at line 1:

The upper cooling body 2 overlaps the frame 7 preferably on all sides by way of a lip 2a projecting all around, with the result that it rests, as it were, as a lid on the frame 7, in which case, with stationary positioning of the upper heating plate 2 together with the assigned cooling body 1, the frame 7 can be mounted in a moveable manner and is pressed by dedicated prestressing means 10 by an appropriate pressure from below against the upper heating plate 2. This firm bearing and boundary-side overlapping of the frame structure by the cooling-body lip 2a ensure that at least on the upper surface of the finished card a satisfactory, also [visual] visually attractive lamination is obtained together with a precise boundary edge for the card which is produced to size[; of]. Of course, in this completed version this is not possible for the lower boundary-edge corner region of the card, since the laminating pressure has to be applied and, for this purpose, the lower heating plate 6 has to have a clearance, even if only

very slight, from the inside dimensions of the frame in order to enable it to be able to be moved relative to the frame 7.

IN THE ABSTRACT:

A method for producing information carriers in the form of cards, in particular credit cards, passes, identification cards, admittance cards etc., the laminating process [comprising] including placing at least one card template which is to be sized, preferably a laminate consisting of a plurality of sized card layers, into a hollow mold and subjecting it to a simultaneous action of pressure and heat for a predetermined time[, consists in that, on the one hand, the]. The material placed into the hollow mold is heated over at least one large area, as known per se by the use of heating plates, and [in that, on the other hand,] in the peripheral, narrow, outer boundary region of the inserted material quantities of heat flowing off per se there are retained, blocked in, reflected and concentrated back onto the laminate template.